

Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Applicant: Craig K. Carlson-Stevermer

Serial No.: 10/622,849

Filed: July 18, 2003

Docket No.: A126,114.102

Title: WAFER STAGING PLATFORM FOR A WAFER INSPECTION SYSTEM

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed November 22, 2006. In that Office Action, the drawings and claim 1 were objected to as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0011835 ("Yamazaki"). The Examiner's indication that claims 5-14 and 16-24 have been allowed is noted with appreciation.

With this Response, the specification has been amended. Claims 1, 5-14, and 16-24 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In objecting to the drawings as well as claim 1, the Office Action asserts that the drawings fail to show a wafer staging platform including first and second platforms arranged one above the other as otherwise set forth in claim 1. In response, Applicant respectfully notes that such features are illustrated in the corrected drawings submitted on November 30, 2005 in which Figures 14 and 15 were amended to identify features of the invention specified in the claims. A courtesy copy of the corrected drawing sheet as previously submitted on November 30, 2005 is included with this Response. As shown in Figure 15, the first and second platforms 32, 34 are arranged one above the other; the specification has been amended to clarify this illustrated relationship. Following submission of the corrected figures on November 30, 2005, no indication has been received from the Examiner that the changes were not accepted. Thus, it is assumed that the drawing corrections filed on November 30, 2005 have been accepted and entered by the Examiner.

In light of the above, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings and claim 1 be withdrawn. As indicated above, and in contrast to the comments made at paragraph 2 of the Final Office Action, Figure 15 does illustrate the platforms 32, 34 "one above the other," and not "side-by-side." With this explanation in mind, then, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Yamazaki for at least the reasons set forth in the Amendment and Response filed September 5, 2006. In summary, the wafer holder 4a and the chamber 20 taught in Yamazaki fail to provide a vacuum-assisted platform for holding a wafer; further, the wafer

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holder 4a and the chamber 20 are not arranged one above the other. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 5-14, and 16-24 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 5-14, and 16-24 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0471.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed Timothy A. Czaja at Telephone No. (612) 573-2004, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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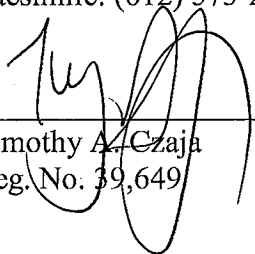
Respectfully submitted,

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